

**FIVE COUNTY
LOCAL HOMELESS COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

Minutes

December 15, 2010

11:30 am - 1:00 p.m.

**Five County Association of Governments
Conference Room
1070 West 1600 South Bldg B
St. George, UT 84770**

<u>MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:</u>	<u>REPRESENTING:</u>
Vice Chair Ray Sim	Iron County Care and Share
Faye Hubbard	Department of Workforce Services
Bob Green	Washington County School District
Stephanie Volker (on phone)	Southwest Center Behavioral Health
Jane Lewis	Five County CAP
Lynn Jorgensen	Veterans Administration
Shelly Cline	Veterans Administration
Cameron Hatch	Dept. of Veteran's Affairs
Frank Yoder	Resource & Re-entry Center
Sherri Dial	Five County AOG
Lloyd Pendleton	State Office of Community Culture
Al Hernandez	Dept. of Veteran's Affairs
Rueben Garcia	Dixie Care & Share
Jean Goode	Family Support Center Safety Net Program
Chuck Goode	Resource & Re-Entry
Kent Thurgood	LDS Church/Transient Services
Britton Lund	Washington County Library
Holly Malnar	DOVE Center
Keisha Greenwell	St. George Housing Authority
Zuleyma Garvin	Resource & Re-Entry
Jessica Rivera	St. George Soup Kitchen
Jo Ann Boone	Resource & Re-Entry
<u>EXCUSED</u>	
Chair Ben Nickel	St. George City Council
<u>ABSENT</u>	
Jan Thompson	Department of Workforce Services
Robert Schaefer	Dixie Care and Share
Colleen Tucker	Job Corps
LuWenn Jones	Disability Law Center & Utah DD Council
Heidi Miller	Cedar City Housing Authority
Michelle Post	Erin Kimball Memorial Foundation
Anne Yero	Canyon Creek Women's Crisis Center
Paula Claymore	Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
Michelle Brown	Dept. of Veteran's Affairs

Welcome and Introductions

Vice Chair Ray Sim Executive Director of the Iron County Care & Share welcomed all members in attendance. Mr. Sim asked for introduction of all in attendance.

Approval of the Agenda & Minutes

**A motion was made by Ms. Jane Lewis to approve the Agenda and accept December 15th, 2010 minutes, seconded by Mr. Chuck Goode.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

HPRP/TANF subcommittee information

How many people have been helped with the HPRP or TANF programs?

Ruben Garcia with the Dixie Care & Share had nothing to report.

Mr. Ray Sim informed that through the HPRP program the Iron County Care & Share has helped 95 families and 142 individuals. Mr. Sim shared that within a 9 month period that the TANF program has been in operation the Iron County Care & Share has served 70 families and over 120 individuals. Mr. Sim explained that the Iron County Care & Share utilizes the same application process for both TANF and HPRP programs. There is a difference in the qualification requirements. The TANF program requires individuals have a least 1 child under age 18 in the home and the household must be under 200% of federal poverty level. The HPRP criteria are the household to be less than 50% family median income. Mr. Sim shared that he does not yet have the dates for the work group sessions the Iron County Care & Share will be having. Mr. Rueben Garcia with the Dixie Care & Share does not have any work group sessions scheduled. Mr. Lloyd Pendleton explained the state overview of the way the program should be running. He suggested having agencies get together and have a work group meeting. Ms. Holly Malnar with DOVE Center commented that there are women leaving the DOVE Center that are being turned away from receiving housing services from the Dixie Care & Share because they do not currently have employment. Mr. Pendleton suggested that Dixie Care and Share needs to review their allocations and then change the guidelines to meet the community needs. This should be discussed with Jonathan Hardy and Lani Nesbit. Landlords are complaining about working with the Dixie Care and Share and the efficiency of payment. Mr. Pendleton suggested a meeting that would bring together the different agencies to help with allocating funds. Mr. Sim discussed the difficulty of proving the "homeless except for this funding". Mr. Sims can help 2-3 families in homeless prevention and 4 or 5 in rapid re-housing. We are utilizing the funds we have been provided. There are some individuals that the Iron Care & Share are unable to assist. Mr. Sim explained that the Iron County Care & Share are turning away 2 to 1 people from receiving housing services. The funding reimbursement process makes it difficult to use the funds as effectively as they would like to use them. Mr. Pendleton stated that the collaboration of agencies is important to utilizing these funds most effectively. Mr. Sim will get with Mr. Garcia at the Iron County Care & Share. There are never enough resources but how do you give them out with the greatest return. Mr. Goode reported that it took 6 months to get through the system and receive funding with the Dixie Care and Share for a client. He felt this is such a difficult process that advocates are needed to navigate the system. Mr. Bob Green stated that we tried to have a workgroup but having the key players who make decision is vital to making the group work. Mr. Sim and Mr. Garcia will set up work group meeting.

CSI update

Mr. Sim turned the time to Ms. Jane Lewis to explain the Community Sharing Information (CSI) update. Ms. Lewis explained that the CSI workshops are for building information and skills for staff & mentors. Last week we had a workshop on developing cultural competency. Each workshop will be a 2-3 hour workshop. Ms. Lewis explained one of the CSI workshops will be a poverty simulation. This is an amazing way to generate understanding of the poverty experience. The goal is also to increase family development expertise to the staff. Another topic will be on how to work with families building relationships, assessment of family strengths, and working towards self-sufficiency. The next meeting will be about assessing family strengths on February 9th. Mr. Sim asked how the topics correlate with homelessness. Ms. Lewis explained the CSI workshops focus on how to work with people living in poverty and supporting decision to move out of poverty. Most people who are homeless are living in poverty.

New housing advisory committee

Mr. Sim turned the time over to Ms. Keisha Greenwell from the St. George Housing Authority. Ms. Greenwell explained that the Housing Authority works directly with HUD. The Housing Authority assists individuals and works with them for up to 5 years to become self-sufficient. The goal is to get the individuals job ready and make sure they have counseling, childcare, GED, etc. Mr. Pendleton asked if Ms. Greenwell is familiar with the Individual Development Account (IDA) program. Mr. Pendleton informed that Ms. Martha Wonderly is the person that teaches the classes. Mr. Pendleton will email Ms. Lewis the information and she will make sure others receive the information.

Homeless Veterans Stand Down in 2011

Mr. Al Herndaz with Department of Veteran's Affairs explained that the Veteran's Affairs would like not to only focus on the Wasatch front area but all over the state of Utah in the rural areas as well. Mr. Herndaz informed that every year a Homeless Veteran's Stand Down is done. The Stand Down is an event in which community providers set up booths and present resources that are available to the homeless veteran's. Some of the resources are Mental Health, Workforce Services, Community Action, Housing Authority and Medical Care. The Homeless Veteran's Stand Down last year had 45 Veteran's that attended and 15 of them were established homeless. Mr. Herndaz would like to hold the Stand Down as close to the shelter as possible. Ms. Britton Lund said there is room at the Library. Ms. Lewis also recommended having it held at the Southwest Center. The Stand Down is a way of reaching out to homeless Vets to let them know they are remembered and care about. Mr. Sim asked when will the event take place and Mr. Herndaz responded January 28th.

The VA explained about the Arc of Eagle Mountain Contract and they would like to do more in Washington County. Since there is a contract in place if there is a veteran with a rehab problem they can be placed quickly. They will also have some funds coming to the area to assist with housing funding in the area HUD VAS. The funding will be available to non-profits in the area. There is a federal push to end homelessness for veterans within the next four years.

Shelly Cline introduced the new Vet Center that is available for veterans and their families. This is not a medical clinic the center will be providing mental health services including marriage and family counseling. They will be located in the Dixie Commons on Dixie Drive and 1600 South. They want to include families in receiving services. Every combat veteran including Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom can qualify for services. They should be operational by early Spring in the permanent location. A mobile clinic that will be housed on Brigham road will be used until then to provide services. Mental health out patient is the focus of services. Idealistically they are tasked to cover the entire southern part of the state. They can also prepare for deployment and work with the families while the soldiers are away.

Foreclosure Housing

Item was tabled because Ms. Heidi Miller with the Cedar City Housing Authority was not in attendance.

Point in Time (P.I.T) discussion

Mr. Lloyd Pendleton explained the Point In Time Count is going to be the last Wednesday in January. It will be January 26th. The count will be a little different this year. The shelter is going to be contacted directly. The unsheltered count is going to be a green sheet and most of the count is going to be when persons come into the Care and Share. HUD requires a one night count to be done every year.

Mr. Garcia from Dixie Care & Share stated he does not agree to help with the count. Ms. Dial shared that the Dixie Care & Share not only has the shelter but they do camper specials therefore the Care & Share is should be able to help with the count the best in collecting data for both sheltered and unsheltered individuals. Since the information is available from the Care and Share because they provide services. The point in time generates the information about homelessness that is used to allocate funding for homeless program i.e. the care and shares. The count at the Care & Share actually impacts the funding for that program.

Ms. Lund is also going to help count the numbers of persons coming into the library. The food pantries across the five counties for the next seven days after the count are going to be asking questions to individuals where they slept during the night. Mr. Pendleton suggested contacting agencies such as the Soup Kitchen, Bishops Storehouse, Transient Bishop and Library to start asking individuals questions about where they slept the previous night. Mr. Pendleton explained all the information that is going to be needed

is the HMIS count, the DB shelter count needs to be sent in separately, the survey for seven days, and the unsheltered camp count. The count becomes more and more important to the allocation of funding.

Wrap around services

Mr. Sim turned the time to Mr. Frank Yoder from Resource & Re-Entry to discuss wrap around services. Mr. Yoder explained that in this five county area the homelessness is getting worse. Mr. Yoder commented that mentoring is in great need to help individuals. Mr. Yoder presented a power point presentation to the board. Mr. Yoder discussed some of the challenges clients are facing are problems are with addiction, homelessness, lack of employment, rental assistance, education, family counseling and moral compass. The Southwest Behavioral Health Center provides services for addiction and family counseling. The Dixie Care & Share provides services to individuals that are homeless as well as the Oxford House. Department of Workforce Services, LDS Employment, and Dessert Industries assists individuals with finding employment. Mr. Yoder informed of the different services available for education which are Southwest High Adult Education, Millcreek, Vocational Rehabilitation and Dixie State College. Mr. Yoder informed that Resource & Re-Entry is looking at the basement of the old courthouse to use as transitional housing. Mr. Yoder emphasized that there is a tremendous need for more transitional housing. There needs to be more partnering to utilize the assets of each agency to better assist individuals in becoming self-sufficient. Each client needs to receive total wrap around services for the problem to be fixed.

Section 8 housing does not discriminate against felons. The Housing Authority is a good place to contact for housing. The Transient Bishop is looking at ways to assist with homelessness more.

Other Updates

Ms. Sherri Dial explained the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. The state has a program that allows low income individuals to get their taxes done for free. The taxes are filed by IRS certified volunteers. Ms. Dial asked everyone to encourage people to wait until their tax return checks come in the mail instead of paying money to get the tax return immediately. Ms. Dial informed that there will be several sites where volunteers will be doing tax assistance. The four sites in Washington County are the Bloomington Wal-Mart, Dixie State College, USU Extension Office and Red Rock Center for Independence. SUU in Cedar City has a location in the Leavitt Business Building. There are also volunteers in Beaver, Kane and Garfield. People may call 211 which will be able to inform them where all the tax sites are in Utah.

Mr. Pendleton informed that the Comprehensive Report on Homelessness 2010 has been finished and is available online.

http://housingworks.utah.gov/publication_research/documents/UtHomelessReportRev10_11_2010.pdf

Ms. Lewis commented that she really liked the Homeless Summit Conference. Several members of the LHCC attended the Summit,

Mr. Yoder wanted to thank anyone who donated to Resource & Re-Entry's Christmas hygiene packs that were given out to individuals. There were about 400 put together.

Mr. Cameron Hatch announced if anyone would like to have a Veteran's Packet he will have them at the back of the room to take. There has been an increase in numbers of Veteran's that are high risk for suicide. Mr. Hatch encouraged everyone if they see a Veteran to give them information. It also has information about a hotline which Veteran's can call to receive help.

Department of Workforce Services announced that they now are doing trainings for homeless. The books and tuition will be paid.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be February 16th, 2011. Mr. Ray Sim welcomed a motion to adjourn the meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Al Hernandez to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Rueben Garcia. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.